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***Text Of Speech By Congressman Brad Carson (D-OK)
Speech Give March 26th, 2003 In Honor Of Workers At
The McAlester Ammunition Depot***

Washington, D.C. --

“Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize almost 1,200 constituents of mine whose job is unknown to most Americans. They go to work everyday at a 45,000 acre compound, the size of the District of Columbia, with a sense of pride and patriotism as they do their part to help this country defend our freedoms and fight the war on terrorism.

Ever since October 1943, the McAlester Ammunition Depot has led our country in the production of ammunitions. During World War II, the depot employed 8,000 people and produced 325,000 tons of ammunition. During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the depot employed more than 3,000 workers. Today, this state-of-the-art maintenance and renovation facility for the weaponry of the United States Armed Forces continue to build vital ammo to defend and protect our great country.

These workers, most all of them civilians, come to work every single day with a very deep understanding about the purpose of their job. As one worker who has passed through those guarded gates for the last 14 years stated, “I’ve always felt a lot of pride having a job here. But now, when I come through that front gate, I just feel so good knowing what we do supports the people who are out there really taking care of this country.”

Mr. Speaker, I’ll close by saying that I am proud and honored that I can call these 1,200 workers my constituents, and at a time when our nation is at war let us not forget those men and women in, and out, of uniform who dedicate their lives so that we can all live in peace and freedom.”

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